memorable experience to all the tourists and visitors to Agra in general and Taj Mahal in particular and to create and provide facilities and infrastructure of of the highest order. Ministry of Tourism had commissioned HUDCO to prepare a Project report and HUDCO's project proposal of Rs. 39.34 crore was submitted to the State Government for detailed examination. The State Government has recommended the same for approval and in the first phase, the proposal for the "Development of East Gate Entry to Taj Mahal" for Rs. 767.00 lakh has already been sanctioned during the year 2005-06.

Connectivity of tourist destinations in Kerala

160. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted a proposal for a project aiming to improve connectivity between the four prime tourist destinations, Kovalam, Kumarakom, Munnar and Bekal in the State seeking financial assistance from the Centre; and

(b) if so, the details of the project and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Joint Project of Pancheswar Yojna in Uttaranchal

†161. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether work is going on, on the joint project of Pancheswar Yojna under survey in Uttaranchal; and

(b) if so, the percentage of work completed in the Indian territory relating to joint project of Pancheswar Yojna under survey and the percentage of work completed in the Nepal territory?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is undetaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administration. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under schemes for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations and Assistance to Large revenue generating Projects. Project proposals that are complete in all respect are approved on the basis of inter-se priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head.

The State Government of Uttaranchal have not submitted any proposal for financial assistance to the Joint project of Pancheswar Yojna, nor have they prioritized any such project with the Ministry of Tourism.

Completion of tourism projects

†162. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than one thousand tourism projects sanctioned by her Ministry for the States and Union Territories are still incomplete;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Central Government have taken any steps to complete these incomplete tourism projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism has so far extended Central financial assistance for 904 tourism projects for implementation by various State/UT Governments during the Tenth Five Year Plan. A Statement showing State-wise details of the projects so far sanctioned during the Tenth Five Year Plan for various States/UT Governments is annexed. *(See below)*. These sanctioned projects are at various stages of implementation and 285 proejects have already been completed. The funds for implementation of the projects are sanctioned to State/UT Government and reasons for incomplete projects are slow execution of the projects by implementing agencies.

(c) The implementation of the sanctioned projects are monitored regularly by the Ministry of Tourism. The domestic field offices of the Ministry are also actively involved in monitoring the projects at the field level to ensure expeditious implementation of the projects.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.